

## **Selvi Stanislaus Remarks for FTB Swearing In Ceremony January 17, 2006**

Thank you Honorable Board Member Chiang, Honorable Board Member Genest, Chief Deputy Controller LaJeunesse, Deputy Controller Mandel, Franchise Tax Board staff, and honored guests. I would also like to acknowledge distinguished State Board of Equalization Board Members, Honorable Bill Leonard, Honorable Parrish, and Honorable Betty Yee.

I would also like to thank my spiritual leader Pastor Glenn Cole, my husband, Arjun, my Board of Equalization family, and my dear friends from the Sri Lankan, Indian, and South Asian communities for being present here today.

I am absolutely overwhelmed with excitement and honored by this opportunity to join one of the most well respected tax departments in our country.

The Franchise Tax Board is a recognized leader in tax administration and technology innovation. The success of any organization starts and ends with you, its employees. I look forward to working with you, my new Franchise Tax Board family, to continue in your great tradition of serving the public efficiently with the utmost respect for taxpayers' needs and sensitivities.

I want to thank Will Bush, the Interim Executive Director for his tremendous commitment to this department and for supporting me in my transition here. He and my predecessor Gerry Goldberg are greatly responsible for building Franchise Tax Board's reputation for excellence in tax administration.

The FTB is admired and studied by other revenue departments throughout our nation and abroad—and is also respected as a role model in state government.

Last week, I met with the Executive staff, which comprised of Will, Lynette Iwafuchi, and John Davies, and received an overview of the Franchise Tax Board's operations. At that meeting, I also learned about your values to serve the taxpayers of California. I am very impressed with the work that has been done to establish those values as daily operating principles.

My passion is to help others, so customer service is critical to our role as public servants. I think it is important to always remember that we serve millions of people in this great state, and what we do here means so very much to all Californians.

I believe that Californians are best served by having an open agency with open communication and dialogue with all affected parties regarding the State's tax policies. My vision is to trust and empower employees to make decisions in how they perform their work to achieve organizational goals, to encourage employee cooperation and teamwork.

It will take all of us, working together, to accomplish these goals, and to continue the great work that has been laid before us by Gerald Goldberg, Will Bush, and all of you.

As I begin my journey to lead the Franchise Tax Board, I make a pledge to you, the employees who drive this department; and to the public, who have given us their trust and confidence. I will work hard to keep us at the forefront in our continual pursuit of excellence in tax administration and state government. I will meet every obstacle as a challenge that we can and will overcome. Our love and respect for the taxpayers of California will be our guiding light.

With this vision, with our commitment, with our positive energy and enthusiasm, let us begin our journey together.

Thank you.